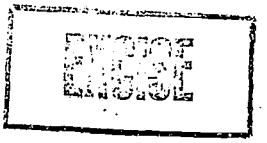

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4306
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USICA WASHDC
C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 5859
E.O. 12065: GDS 12/9/86 (SONANDRES, THOMAS W.) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS THAT DECEASED JONESTOWN RESIDENTS APPEAR ON GUYANA VOTING LISTS
REF: STATE 323402 (NOTAL)
1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY GIVE LITTLE CREDENCE TO THE PPP ALLEGATIONS THAT TWELVE SPECIFICALLY NAMED DECEASED JONESTOWN RESIDENTS ARE ON THE VOTER ROLLS, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT THE ROLLS CONTAIN NUMEROUS OTHER INACCURACIES. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE, HOWEVER, BE LIMITED TO CITING THE RECENT GOG PRESS RELEASE ON THE SUBJECT, AVOIDING ANY COMMENT IN THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD ON THE FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTIONS OTHER THAN TO REPEAT MR. WARNE'S BRIDGETOWN STATEMENT THAT WE HOPE THE POLL WILL BE FREE AND FAIR. WE DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF ELECTION FRAUD, AND USG COMMENT ABOUT THIS BEFORE
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THE ELECTIONS SEEMS MOST INOPPORTUNE. END SUMMARY.
3. THE EMBASSY GIVES LITTLE CREDENCE TO SPECIFIC PPP ALLEGATIONS, CONTAINED IN A NOVEMBER 22 PPP PRESS RELEASE, THAT TWELVE DECEASED JONESTOWN RESIDENTS APPEAR ON THE NORTH WEAT DISTRICT ELECTORAL LIST (REFTEL). THE DECEMBER 7 GOVERNMENT DAILY "CHRONICLE" PRINTED A HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WHICH REFUTED THESE ALLEGATIONS. THE ARTICLE TERMED IT A COINCIDENCE THAT TWELVE JONESTOWN DECEASED SHARED NAMES WITH LIVING AND PROPERLY REGISTERED GUYANESE IN THE AREA, PUBLISHING PHOTOGRAPHS AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA OF SEVERAL OF THESE GUYANESE. ADDITIONALLY, THE GUYANA REGISTRAR GENERAL AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN VIGOROUSLY DENIED THE PPP'S ALLEGATIONS TO AN EMBOFF ON DECEMBER 7.
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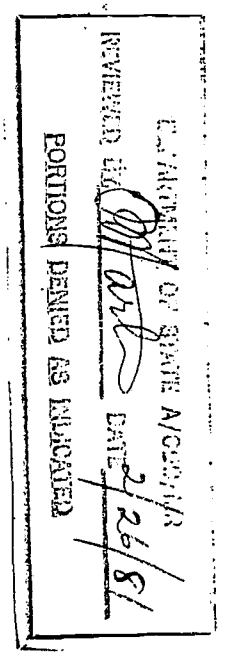

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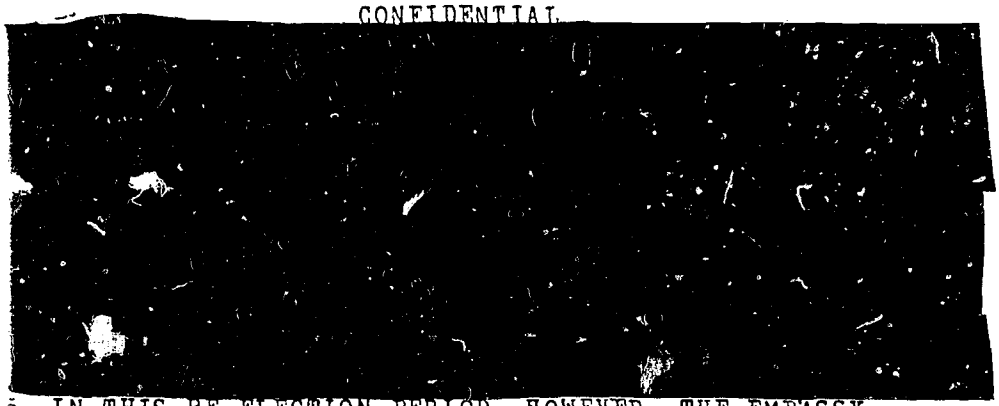

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5. IN THIS PE-ELECTION PERIOD, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY
RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE BE LIMITED
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TO REFERRING TO THE GOG DECEMBER 6 PRESS RELEASE WHICH
READS IN PART, QUOTE: WHILE NO PRELIMINARY LIST COULD
EVER BE PERFECT, AND WHILE EVERY OPPORTUNITY WAS AFFORDED
TO ALL PARTIES AND EVEN INDIVIDUALS TO EFFECT APPRO-
PRIATE AMENDMENTS TO THAT LIST, THE FACT IS THAT THE
RESIDENTS OF JONESTOWN WERE NEVER REGISTERED IN GUYANA,
AND THEREFORE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ON THE PRELIMINARY
LIST FOR ELECTIONS. IT IS TRUE THAT VERY OFTEN PERSONS
BEARING SIMILAR NAMES AND OTHER PARTICULARS HAVE BEEN
REGISTERED IN THE SAME AREA. THIS COULD, WHEN PUBLISHED,
APPEAR TO REPRESENT A DUPLICATION, BUT IN FACT, WHEN
CHECKED AGAINST THE RECORDS WOULD BE SEEN TO BE QUITE
CORRECT. (PARAGRAPH) WITH REGARDS TO THE NAMES MENTIONED
IN THE PPP'S STATEMENT, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PERSONS
MENTIONED ARE DEFINITELY NOT AMERICAN CITIZENS BUT ARE
GUYANESE BY BIRTH, AND NATIONALITY. AS FAR AS THE
OFFICIAL RECORES GO, THEY HAVE HAD NO ASSOCIATION WITH
JONESTOWN, AND IN MOST, IF NOT ALL CASES, THEY WERE
FIRST REGISTERED BEFORE THE DATE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE JONESTOWN COMMUNITY. (PARAGRAPH) IN ORDER
TO PUT AN END TO SPECULATION, THEREFORE
WE SUPPLY
HEREUNDER PARTICULARS OF SOME OF THE PERSONS MENTIONED
TO ESTABLISH THAT WHILE CERTAIN JONESTOWN RESIDENTS
MIGHT HAVE BORNE THOSE NAMES, THERE ARE MANY GUYANESE,
AND INDEED MANY WEST INDIANS AS WELL, WITH SIMILAR
NAMES. WE ARE ALSO MAKING AVAILABLE TO THE NATIONAL
PRINT MEDIA IN GUYANA PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME OF THE
PERSONS INVOLVED. END QUOTE. COPIES OF PPP AND GOG
RELEASES BEING POUCHED ARA/CAR.
6. COMMENT: THE PPP ALLEGATION APPEARS INACCURATE, [redacted] B1/ED
[redacted] WE DO NOT HAVE
CONCRETE EVIDENCE AND THEREFORE WOULD CONSIDER IT MOST

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INOPPORTUNE TO COMF TO ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE FAIRNESS
AND HONESTY OF THE ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 15.
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WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, TO REPEAT THE
HOPE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED BY ARA/CAR DIRECTOR WARNE
DURING HIS RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRIDGETOWN THAT
THE GUYANESE POLL BE FREE AND FAIR. THE PPP'S "MIRROR"
CAN AT TIME MAKE EXCELLENT POINTS, BUT IT TENDS TO
PRINT ANYTHING SUPPORTING ITS VIEWS WITHOUT CONCERN FOR
ACCURACY. THIS TIME, IT APPEARS OFF BASE. [redacted] B1 1 ED

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